

## INFORMATION REPORT

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When the Communists returned to Pyongyang after the United Nations occupation of the city, they confiscated the property of all persons who had cooperated with the UN. In late April, residents were still leaving the city in fear of such reprisals. Village defense bands were set up by the Communist authorities and instructed to round up ROK sympathizers and their families and try them in a people's court. Between December 1950 and late April 1951, three inspections of the population were made, and many persons were arrested. One North Korean tank division commander was shot for conspiring with the ROK forces, on the basis of evidence found in a ROK intelligence office in Seoul during the last North Korean occupation of that city.

During May many persons suspected by the North Korean authorities of being espionage agents or anti-Communist sympathizers were arrested by Pyongyang police and State Security Bureau officials. Anti-Communist residents of the city estimated the number of arrests during the month at 5,000, of whom the majority were women. Suspects were taken to the Pyongyang police headquarters in the former Pyongyang Hospital, where many died from disease and torture. One arrestee who was subsequently released reported that during half an hour while he was waiting to be interrogated he saw 18 bodies carried from the building.

About 20 April 1951, the population of Pyongyang was estimated at 450,000 to 500,000, with the proportion of women being two to one man. Unemployment was great, and, since unemployed persons received no rations, most of them were dissatisfied with the returned North Korean regime and regretted not having gone south with the withdrawing UN forces. Much food purchase and

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barter were carried on in secret. Medical attention was difficult for civilians to obtain.

4. The cave shelters dug in Mount Moran-bong and Kyongsang-ni have been put to use as factories for the manufacture of munitions and clothing, and one cave is reported to house the Pyongyang radio station. One anti-aircraft artillery unit is in the city, and Chinese Communist units have shifted in and out, none remaining for very long.
5. Some residents of Pyongyang blamed the great destruction of buildings on the Chinese Communist intervention in the war and felt that Korea could be rebuilt only with aid from the United Nations or the United States.
6. During February 1951, some changes were made in the titles of ministries of the North Korean government. The Ministry of State Security\*\* became the Ministry of Social Security (Sa Hoe An Chon Song) (社会安全省). The former Minister of State Security, PANG Hak-se, was transferred to a different position.

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\* Comment. Information in this paragraph was passed to G-2 EUSAK ADVANCE.

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\*\* Comment. The State Security organization is usually considered a bureau under the Ministry of Interior.